AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating feeding, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of increasing body weight, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of increasing fat weight, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

4. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 7, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

10. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

11. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening for a compound which stimulates or suppresses feeding or a salt thereof according to claim 10, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

12. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening according to claim 9, 10, or 11, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

13. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening according to claim 12, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of recovering feeding and/or body weight gain in a patient having a disease involving reduced feeding and/or weight loss, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a patient in need thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of treating anorexia or cachexia, comprising administering an effective amount of relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, to a mammal in need thereof.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 17, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 19, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

21. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound which increases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A)contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

22. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

23. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof according to claim 22, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

24. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening according to claim 21, 22, or 23, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

25. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening according to claim 24, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell comprising a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 27, wherein it comprises the step of

(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to any one of claims 26 to 28, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 29, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

31. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of
(A) contacting a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell containing a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell, and
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

32. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the step of
(A) contacting relaxin-3, or a salt thereof, and a test substance with a relaxin-3 receptor, a cell which contains a relaxin-3 receptor, or a membrane fraction of said cell.

33. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein it comprises the step of
(B) measuring a cell-stimulating activity via the relaxin-3 receptor.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to any one of claims 31 to 33, wherein the relaxin-3 receptor is SALPR or its partial polypeptide.

35. (Withdrawn) The kit for screening according to claim 34, wherein SALPR is a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4.

36-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound to stimulate or suppress feeding or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring the amount of feeding after administration.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 47, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 4 to 8.

49. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound which increases or decreases body weight or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring body weight after administration.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 49, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 16 to 20.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound involved in the control of obesity or a salt thereof, comprising the steps of administering a compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor to a human or a non-human organism and then measuring indices of obesity after administration.

52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 51, wherein the compound which acts on a relaxin-3 receptor is a compound obtained by the method of any one of claims 26 to 30.